

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Dixie Ponds

Proposal Number: 1479

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Garfield

Project Manager: Jake Schoppe

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Miscellaneous

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: Mt. Dutton / Sevier Plateau and Markagaunt plateau (Strawberry area)

Project Description: The proposal is to take 27 ponds in key areas and to clean each pond, fix each spillway, deepen if necessary and then re-seal with clay or bentonite where appropriate and practical.

Description of Problem/Need: Ponds have become breached or silted in and need cleaning or to be sealed with a clay bottom to catch water.

Objectives: To improve water distribution across the north end of the management unit for the Sevier Plateau (22 ponds) and to improve (5 ponds_ in the Strawberry area on the Cedar City district. This would provide for better distribution of ungulates across the landscape, and improve overall wildlife habitat effectiveness for a wide array of species.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Project will enhance habitat and water resources in several of the key habitats focused on in the Wildlife Action Plan including the Shrub-Steppe, and Mountain Shrub habitat type. Additionally, water and or aquatic habitat will be provided for a variety of Tier I , II, and III species including Utah prairie dog, northern goshawk, sage grouse, Mexican spotted owl, three-toed woodpecker, various bats, mule deer, ground squirrels and miscellaneous other species.

This project meets the Dixie National Forest plan in that it provides improved habitat and water resources for Management Indicator Species (MIS) as well as a wide array of TES species as required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Potential Risks: No risk's are expected as long as ponds are cleaned during dry conditions then equipment will not get stuck.

Proposed Methods: It is proposed the USFS would issue a contract to clean and seal 22 ponds across the north end of the Sevier Plateau (Mt. Dutton) management unit, and 5 ponds on the Markagaunt (Panguitch Lake) management unit.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1479.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☐ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Dixie National Forest biologist would monitor ponds for effectiveness. Due to precipitation patterns, it may take 3-5 years to estimate whether a pond will hold moisture or whether it may need follow-up work such as more clay or excavation. A follow-up report on all work completed would be submitted to the UPCD.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Elk | Pronghorn | Mule Deer | Greater Sage-grouse |
| Utah Prairie-dog | Small Mammals | Neotropical Birds | |

LAND OWNERSHIP

| Owner | Acres |
|-------|-------|
| USFS | 27 |

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Project Proposal

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Total | 27 |
|--------------|----|

PROPOSED FUNDING

| Source | Amount Requested | Date Approved | Amount Approved |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| USFS | \$12,000.00 | | \$12,000.00 |
| Unfunded Balance | \$108,000.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Totals | \$120,000.00 | | \$12,000.00 |

PROPOSED BUDGET

| Item | Description | DWR Account | Partner Contrib. |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Other | USFS Contract Prep and administration | \$0.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Contractual Services | Contract to excavate and reseal 27 ponds @ \$4000ea | \$108,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| | Totals | \$108,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |

Project Map:

